



Hi \_\_\_\_\_:

I am reaching out to let you know about **Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Gardens Program (OFG)** in hopes of exploring opportunities to work together. OFG is part of Surfrider's larger effort to prevent water pollution and increase water use efficiency. OFG aims to educate, train and assist people in applying CPR - Conservation, Permeability and Retention - to landscapes to revive watersheds and oceans.

A couple of points of engagement seem like natural intersections with water supply entities and water quality agencies, landscape professionals and product retailers, and fellow non-profit organizations:

**OFG principles** – link to them on Surfrider’s website or post them on your own website for property owners and professionals to incorporate from the start, e.g., when offering turf removal rebates and irrigation audit programs;

**OFG yard sign and criteria**- a tool to promote OFGs you've created, an incentive to offer people interested in sustainable landscaping, and a way to create demand for OFG-oriented site evaluation services and sustainable landscaping products;

**OFG tracking map** - an online map to track complete OFGs or those in progress so people can visit them virtually or in person, learn about which OFG components are in the garden, and see who was involved and where to get the materials.

**OFG neighborhood walks** – known as “Lawn Patrols,” a play on dawn patrol, when surfers check out the early morning waves. The walks start at an OFG and follow a pre-scouted route, helping to train the eye of the participants and ID those to help go OFG.

Additionally, some Surfrider Chapters have contracted with landscape professionals like G3/The Green Gardens Group and partnered with water supply and quality agencies to conduct **OFG Basics Classes** and **Hands-On Workshops** as well as oversee **OFG Garden Assistance Program Workdays** (think barn raisings). In-class education is linked with hands-on training for DIYers or those who want to communicate their needs to a pro.

You can learn more about the OFG principles, tools and program components at [www.oceanfriendlygardens.org](http://www.oceanfriendlygardens.org), and check out Chapter websites for local information. The Surfrider Chapters and I look forward to connecting with you. Please contact me with any questions or ideas.

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